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Message Text

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54
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 MMO-04 /020 W
---------- 011744
R 141858Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1106

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1308

JOINT EMBASSY/AAO MESSAGE

DEPT FOR ARA/MGT; AID/W FOR LA/CAR

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: AFSP, BB
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DELEGATION OF CONTRACTING AUTHORITY -- AID AFFAIRS OFFICER

1. INCUMBENT SUBJECT POSITION, ALTHOUGH NEVER DELEGATED CONTRACTING AUTHORITY, DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CLEARANCE VARIOUS TYPES CONTRACTS DURING MANY YEARS SERVICE IN CONTROLLER AND SUBORDINATE POSITIONS. CLEARANCE INVOLVED ADHERENCE TO PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS AND NOT MERELY A CERTIFICATION OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY.

2. BELIEVE THAT DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT UP TO $25,000 REQUIRED ON SAME BASIS SUCH AUTHORITY DELEGATED OTHER AID MISSIONS WHO MUST RELY ON TDY LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION INDICATES NO LEGAL ADVISOR POSTED GUYANA, HAITI OR JAMAICA FOR EXAMPLE.

3. AUTHORITY TO SIGN PURCHASE ORDERS AS ORDERING OFFICER PARTICULARLY VITAL SINCE EMBASSY ADMINOFF FEELS AFTER SPEAKING WITH OFFICIALS IN STATE, THAT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BY THE EMBASSY FOR AID MISSION MUST BE MINIMAL IN ABSENCE OF ANY SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT.

4. THIS RAISES AN IMPORTANT QUESTION, ORIGINALLY BROUGHT UP LAST JANUARY AND NEVER RESOLVED BY EITHER STATE OR AID,
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AS TO WHAT AID CAN EXPECT IN THE WAY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. EMBASSY IS HARD PRESSED WITH NO FULL TIME GSO (C&R AS-

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SISTANT SPENDS 50 PERCENT OF HIS TIME ON GSO MATTERS, BUT NOW
TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC HAS INCREASED TO THE POINT WHERE THAT
50 PERCENT HAS DWINDLED TO 20-30 PERCENT), ARRIVAL OF NEW
MSG DETACHMENT, ETC. EMBASSY THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO ASSUME
EVEN MORE WORK WITH LIMITED STAFF.

5. AAO RECOGNIZES THAT SOME ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS MUST
BE HANDLED BY HIMSELF AND STAFF, BUT OBTAINING AUTHORITIES AND
ARRANGING FOR OFFICE SPACE AND SEARCH FOR RESIDENTIAL
HOUSING REQIRING INORDINATE AMOUNT TIME AND INHIBITING
PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING CONTACTS AND BECOMING ENGAGED WITH
SUBSTANTIVE FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. WHILE CURRENT
ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORTS ARE SHORT RANGE, WOULD HOPE THAT OFFICE
NOT BE REQUIRED DEVOTE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT TIME TO ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT/AID WASHINGTON VIEWS ON SUPPORT
ARRANGEMENTS AID AFFAIRS OFFICE.
BRITTON

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